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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 25, 2005

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 25, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

#### POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. CUMHURIYET / HURRIYET / RADIKAL / VAKIT / TERCUMAN: A group of 1000 people protested yesterday in Siirt when security forces did not allow the group to bury two (alleged) PKK/KONGRA-GEL members --killed during an operation conducted at the Gabar Mountain of Sirnak on January 20 -- at a cemetery in the city center. During yesterday's turmoil, the group shouted slogans, burned two cars and threw stones that shattered the windows of many buildings. Nearly a hundred people were detained during the events and some of them were released later. Murat Yildirim, the Governor of Siirt, announced that the bodies of the alleged terrorists were buried in Eruh. According to Yildirim, some politicians were maliciously exploiting people's feelings and inciting disturbances, and that's why the families of the dead people did not show up during the burial procedures, Yildirim said.

3. OZGUR GUNDEM / EVRENSEL: According to the reports of Ozgur Gundem and Evrensel, the bodies of the alleged terrorists, which were brought to Siirt the day before from Sirnak, were seized by the security forces at the entrance of Siirt. Fourteen hours later, the bodies were buried, without the approval of their families and without conducting religious rites, into (allegedly) a single pit in the ground in Eruh (the hometown of the deceased in Siirt). The families of the alleged terrorists will file complaints about the local authorities.

4. CUMHURIYET: Selahattin Durmus (sic), attorney and Chairperson of the Human Rights Association's Diyarbakir Branch, was acquitted during a hearing yesterday of charges that he had praised the PKK/KONGRA-GEL in statements he had given to a newspaper a while ago, in response to the EU's decision to include the organization on its list of terrorist organizations. (Note: Last name should be Demirtas. End note.)

5. ZAMAN / OZGUR GUNDEM: Wolves, trying to survive heavy winter conditions, are continuing to disturb settlements in Turkey's southeastern region. Villagers say that groups of villagers on horses are chasing wolves, not to kill them, but to draw them out of the settlement areas. The villagers add that never before have wolves approached human settlements so closely and in such large numbers.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): ADTM (Adana Foreign Trade Club), established in large part through efforts of the Adana Chamber of Commerce and UK's Sheffield Chamber of Commerce in 2002, today has turned into an organization that encompasses a larger regional effort. Antakya, Mersin, Kayseri and Gaziantep provinces will also be opening Foreign Trade Clubs on February 23 and 24. A presentation will be held to provide information about the East Mediterranean Foreign Trade Center on the same day.